

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 24, 2006, Applicants hereby elect the species which the Examiner indicates as corresponding to Species B (silicon nitride alloys) for prosecution in the present Application. This election is made with traverse. Claims 1-19 read on the elected species.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that no claim is generic (Office Action, page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants specifically refer the Examiner to independent Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19, each of which is generic as to each of the species identified by the Examiner. For example, each of independent Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 is generic as to the container materials indicated by the Examiner for each species (e.g., silicon nitride (Species A), silicon nitride alloys (Species B), hexagonal boron nitride (Species C) and ceramic (Species D)). Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 16 are also generic as to each of the species container materials indicated by the Examiner. Claims 2, 11, 15 and 17 each recite "alloys of silicon nitride," and Claims 3, 6, 9, 12 and 18 each recite "an alloy comprised of silicon nitride." Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-19 read on the elected Species B (silicon nitride alloys), and that Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 are generic to each of the species indicated by the Examiner.

Moreover, in the Office Action, the Examiner refers to Applicants' response filed on 6-27-2005 (Office Action, page 2; see also Office Action Summary page). However, Applicants filed another response to this same election requirement on November 14, 2005. Applicants' Response filed on November 14, 2005, appears to not have been considered by the Examiner at least based on the Examiner's apparent failure to recognize or even comment on such Response.

CONCLUSION

No fee is believed due with this Response. If, however, Applicants have overlooked the need for any fee due with this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 13-4900 of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

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